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T H E
H I S T O R Y
O F

James P*****n, Esq ;

O F T H E
C O U N T Y of D E V O N.

B E I N G

A full, true, and perfect *Relation* of his Birth and Education. The many Hazards he was expos'd to, on Account of the Women of the Town. How after he had spent all his Allowance, he was drawn in to commit a Robbery with a pretended Friend, for which he had nearly been hang'd. How he afterwards took himself into a more serious Way of Thinking, and abandon'd every vicious Habit of Life ; and at last became a good Husband to a Lady of great Rank, Fortune, and Merit.

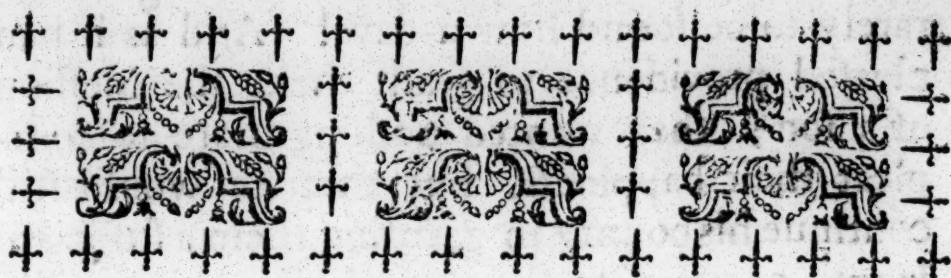
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1756





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JAMES P*****N, Esq; &c.



*****P*****N, Esq;
was born in the county of
Devon, heir to a fortune
of 1500*l. per Ann.* the
possession of his father.
His father and mother
had been marry'd some
years without having any

children; but at last it pleased providence to
send them this son, in whom was reposed all
their comfort and happiness on earth, hoping
to live to see him make as good a man, and
gain as great a character as his father had done
before him.

This gentleman and lady were as remark-
able instance of the real and satisfactory happi-
ness

ness that may be enjoy'd in the marriage state ; rarely to be found now a-days ! And as it had pleased providence to grant them the blessing of a son ; they wanted nothing more to compleat their happiness, but that he would still continue his bounty in granting them a sufficient length of years to see their darling educated in the paths of religion, sobriety and virtue : but alas ! how vain are all human expectations ! It pleased God to inflict the mother with a slow nervous fever, which proved fatal.

This sudden shock so affected the mind of the husband, that he no longer took delight in those pleasing diversions of a country life, nor could any thing divert his thoughts from reflecting on his late dear consort's departure ; and were it not for the comfort of his son, the pledge of his former happiness, he would not have survey'd so long as he did : but even this proved ineffectual to prolong his days, and he died of a broken heart seven months and eleven days after his dear lady, leaving his son to the care of a gentleman of his most intimate acquaintance and bosom friend, by way of guardian. Just before he expired he call'd for his son, and made this serious blessing. “ My
 “ blessing, son, attends thee ; may God look
 “ down upon thee with an eye of pity, and
 “ make

“ make thee stedfast in pious revolutions.
 “ Farewell, let me embrace thee in my feeble
 “ arms. Merciful, all-wise Creator, pour
 “ down thy grace abundantly on this babe,
 “ make him to become a pious and holy man,
 “ and die a good old age ; farewell, son, may
 “ God be with thee, I can no more. ”

The little babe seeing his father in this situation, discover'd something which his tender years could not express, but he did all he could ; for he cry'd and sobb'd to that degree, that what with the situation his father was in, and it's innocent grief, afforded a most melancholy scene.

At the time of our young gentleman's father's death, he was about six years of age, too young to receive any pious exhortations he might improve by from his father, but even at this age, he discovered so great good nature, liveliness and good sense, that he attracted the admiration of all that knew him, circumstances seldom known in such tender years. These qualifications no doubt gained him the delight of his guardian, whom I shall distinguish by the name of mr. L-----g, who look'd upon him as his own ; but perhaps it might not be thought tedious to the reader, if I give a short
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but just character of that gentleman. He was formerly a school-master of our young gentlemans father's, but having an elder brother bred a merchant in *London*, and he dying a batchelor, he came into the possession of his estate of 1000*l. per Ann.* in the county of *Devon*, to which place he retired from business, he was a married man, and had several children by his wife, who was now lately deceas'd: his children he educated under private masters, rather than run the hazard of having them corrupted in those nurseries of vice, too common under the name of boarding-schools. He was remarkably good natur'd and tender, and possess'd of every other valuable qualification, which might have render'd him worthy of the acquaintance of his late dear friend. How happy to be plac'd under such a guardian!

But to return to our young gentleman; he daily encreas'd in those noble qualifications given him above; and at the arrival of ten years, he really became every one's favourite and delight. He was naturally fond of reading, and not like boys at his age, choosing out fables and stories to divert them, but what were more solid and improving to the mind, were the lessons he delighted in; as yet he had never attempted any thing farther than the mother tongue. His

His guardian now thinking it time he should be acquainted with the scholastic languages, sent him to a noted boarding-school in that neighbourhood; for not being his own child, he thought it might be a greater satisfaction to his relations to see him so educated, rather than in a private way, as there was no doubt of his making a good scholar: so after he had been at school about five years (an instance rarely to be met with) he was so well perfected in the *Latin* and *Greek*, that he could pronounce and understand them as well as *English*. However, he continued at school improving, (if possible) those noble qualifications till the age of eighteen years, and was then taken away to experience another sort of life suitable to his birth and fortune. In short, he was to spend half his time in *London* and half in the country. His allowance was stipulated at 200*l.* the first year, and increased 100*l.* a year till he came of age. Youth is naturally too presumptuous! and in such a place as this, how few can withstand its temptations is too fatally experienced!

Our young gentleman now set out for *London* for the first time, about the middle of *September*, when balls, operas, masquarades, plays, and other winter diversions succeeded those more agreeable ones, *Vaux-hall*, *Ranelagh*, &c.

The first thing necessary after his arrival, was to equip himself out in the genteelest manner as to dress, which was no sooner done than he made his appearance at the play in the front boxes. The evening's entertainment gave him so great pleasure and satisfaction, that he wish'd for nothing more than for another night's coming that he might be entertain'd in the same manner. The wish'd-for night came, but he chang'd his place for one of a more lofty situation, famous for those ladies of life, which under another denomination are call'd *women of the town*. Thus was he unwarily and unhappily led into a nest of vice, without so much as knowing it; for he had not sat long in this place, before one of his female neighbours accosted him with the application of *My Dear*, and such sort of endearing expression these wretches make use of to insnare and captivate the young and ignorant; as is natural to suppose, these incentives proved sufficient to create in his breast some warm struggles, which madam perceiving, heightened as much as possible by her repeated kisses and other liberties improper to mention, till at last she gain'd the entire possession of his will, and he no longer hesitated to accompany her to any place she should approve of.

Before

Before I proceed any further, it may not be improper to give some name to this Lady, who (for the better distinguishing her in the sequel) I shall call *Meretrica*. The place destin'd for the rendezvous was a noted *Bagnio* hard by the play-house: and no sooner were they shew'd a room, and taken their seats therein, but the next was to call for something to drink; *Meretrica* had so much good manners as to ask her gallant what he would like, but yet was glad to take the advantage, when he submitted it intirely to her pleasure: she called for arrack, a bowl at the extravagant price of *Ten Shillings* (which contains about three half-pints) was presently introduc'd. This small quantity was soon drank, and another call'd for, which was no sooner gone, but Mr. P---- found himself in too high spirits to think of any thing but indulging himself in those warm passions which women and wine had inspir'd him. Thus we see when the mind is on an equal ballance, between our passion and reason, how great a conquest it is for the latter to prevail.

Meretrica, seeing the situation of her lover, watch'd a private Oppertunity and sent for two other Ladies of her own Character, attended by a man, to be the better sure of putting in execution her villanous Design. She made

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her appology for admitting strangers into his company, *But as for the Ladies* [cry'd she with a hypocritical air] *their company must always be agreeable to the gentlenen; and I doubt not pursued she, but after you have been in the company of this gentleman some time, you will have good reason to thank me for his acquaintance, which is courted and desir'd by all men of rank and distinction.* This she said for fear Mr. P-----n should be prejudiced against him, and see thro' her purpose. When a man is intoxicated in liquor, reason is off of it's guard; for certainly had not mr. P-----n been in this situation, he would never have suffered any stranger to have introduced himself into his company at a time when he had a mind to have (as is the common expression) a girl.

It is reasonable to think these people would not suffer the glass to stand still; they call'd for, and had every rich wine the house afforded, and as rich a supper as could be provided, with every other extravagancy that can be thought of. Here let us take a survey of him, which I hope will shock every young breast, and give them the uttermost detestation and abhorance to places of so infamous a character.

His situation in a bagnio, which is a place
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he is intirely ignorant of, as well as of the exorbitant demands thereof; totally immersed in wine he knows not how to act or govern himself. As soon as his companions saw the condition he was in, they immediately began their project, first by stripping him of all his money, which was about 20*l*. in gold, and some silver; not contented with this booty, one took his watch, another his diamond shoe and knee buckles, and that off his neck, not so much as leaving him his laced coat and waistcoat: In short, none of them remained empty handed; and they slip'd out of the room undiscovered, got into the street, called a coach, and driving by different ways, got into a place of residence, where they deposited their booty, leaving poor mr. *P---n* to come to himself and reflect in his more serious intervals of the horrors of what was past. The people of the house, when they found how he had been treated, not doubting by his appearance, but he was a person of some distinction they conducted him to bed, where with the comfortable refreshment of sleep he came to his right reason, and found himself in the morning in a situation to be imagin'd perhaps, but not to be express'd; he fain would have got up and made his way home to his lodgings, but this was impossible for him to do as yet, not having any money left to discharge

his expences which he had contracted in this unhappy catastrophe: however he soon sent for a gentleman of his acquaintance who defray'd every thing, and brought mr. P---n from a place he had so much reason to think on with horror ever after. One would have imagin'd, that this unhappy adventure would have caution'd him of ever falling into any other scrape with the women of the town; but alas! youth now a-days is too giddy to make serious reflections, and seldom buy experience but at a dear rate.

One evening walking in the street, he saw a lady who tho' genteely dress'd, her gait discover'd her to be a woman of the town, one of those whose livelihood depends upon the number of their generous admirers; mr. P---n accosted her with a proper salutation, which my lady affected to be highly displeased (a way these creatures use the better to fire our inclinations) but as mr. P---n was certain she was no other than what he took her to be, pursued his address, and soon found my lady agreeable to his wish, and he accompanied her to her lodgings near the *Hay-market*. As soon as they got there, a supper was order'd with wine and other liquors, whilst which was preparing, our young people indulged themselves in some few
amorous

amorous overtures, where we shall leave them till supper, which was ready in about two hours after their coming in at first. It consisted of two fowls with proper sauces, &c. some veal cutlets and tarts of which they eat hearty, and then order'd it away to make room for the enlivening bowl. But here began the villainous scheme so artfully laid by the perpetrators.

This vile woman, as soon as the things were taken away, began telling mr. P--- that she was married, but that her husband was out of town, and had taken this opportunity for the sake of variety, to find out some gallant to supply his place in his absence; that only her maid was in the secret, and he need not be under any uneasiness; adding withal that she thought the share of beauty she was possess'd of, would make any one glad of so favourable an opportunity; but before mr. P---n had time to give her an answer, the maid came running up stairs crying, *O Lord, madam, we are all undone! for my master is just this moment come home, and will be up stairs as soon as he has put off his boots. I have told him you have been very much out of order all day, and that you were just now got into a sleep, and 'twould be a great pity as well as unkindness in him to disturb you; but I am afraid he is in one of those ill humours he*
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so often is in, and that all my remonstrances are vain: Oh! heaven (says the counterfeit) what shall I do? What excuse, says she, addressing herself to mr. P---n, shall I make for your being here? he is extremely jealous; therefore, dear sir, let me beg of you to step into that closet, till I can lull the Hydra to sleep, and then you may make your escape.

Mr. P--- being surpris'd and not knowing what to do, complied with her request, and she lock'd him into the closet, drawing the curtain of her bed, she went to the door to receive her counterfeit husband, who by this time had demanded entrance.

No sooner was our gentleman entered, but he began the most approbious language he could utter. So Mrs. Devil, says he, *I understand you have a man in the house! a pretty companion for a poor weak woman, indeed! one who is always complaining how hard I use her. Where is the villain! for I will demolish him this instant. Is it your virtue, madam? is this your boasted modesty? Let me see the rascal immediately! or by G--d I shall sacrifice yourself first.* Upon this, as he had been directed before-hand he bounces open the door where our young gentleman was conceal'd, whom he discovers all trembling

trembling and pale ready to drop on the floor at the sight of this inhuman wretch, from whom he could expect no quarter. Madam being determin'd to be kill'd herself, rather than see the blood spilt of an innocent man in her own apartment & upon her account too endeavour'd to pacify him with all the cordial expressions she was mistress of, but yet to cover the cheat the better, the more they struggled the more enraged our pretended husband appeared to be, for such he imagin'd to make *Mr. P--n* believe himself,

They could not however, so grossly impose on him but that he discern'd the trick; he began to see how he was trapan'd, and ventur'd to speak in his own behalf, and tell the whole truth of the story; but he might as well have held his peace, for the husband pretended how greatly his honour was injur'd and that nothing but blood or some other sufficient satisfaction could make him amends. *Mr. P--n* desired to know what could satisfy him, the other proposed 300 *l.* This was a large sum, which our adventurer could not well find means to raise; however he consented to lay down 100 *l.* rather than bring himself into fresh troubles, which they made him immediately send for, first looking over the note to be certain a constable

table might not be return'd instead of the money. The money was paid a few hours after, and mr. P---n was discharged from his confinement. As for the remainder of the agreed sum it was never paid, for the conquerors thinking themselves well off with the present booty, forbore making any other enquiry after him.

We have observ'd before, that mr. P---n's allowance was 200 /. the first year, and encreased 100 /. per ann. 'till he was of age. He had draughts from his guardian to receive the money as soon as he should arrive in town, which he had taken up; but it appears plain enough that by these two adventures (which have been recited together with other expences] he must nearly have spent the whole, and indeed in a few weeks after he was quite moniless, where to apply he knew not, to have sent to his guardian, the consequence would have been that that gentleman would have immediately sent for him home into the country, a place he could by no means relish, after the tasting the gaities of this fertile town, but at last the following presented. Among the circle of his acquaintance, was one in particular whom he had always professed a more than ordinary regard for; but being in but low circumstances had often lent him money, which the other honestly returned. This person had a relation lately deceas'd who

had left him a legacy of 300*l.* which mr. I*****n being inform'd of, applied to him for one 50, but instead of meeting with a due return for his former kindness, his pretended friend told him, *That he was in debt above half as much again as the legacy that was left him; that his creditors were so pressing unless they were satisfied in some part of their demands, he should be immediately thrown into goal, further adding, that he hop'd he would excuse upon his account, his not complying with his request.*

This somewhat startled mr. P*****n who was surprized that he should never have heard him mention these debts before; but as he was honest himself, so he easily believ'd what his friend said; therefore taking his leave he retir'd to his own lodging, to think how he could raise a little money to supply his present emergencies, till some favourable excuse might offer itself to have redress from his guardian. In these reveries a person knock'd at his door, who being admitted, produc'd a note from his acquaintance last-mentioned, telling him he would be glad to see him immediately, for that something had offer'd, which would turn to his advantage, and extricate him out of his present trouble. Mr. P-----n received this information with great joy, and goes directly to his friend's

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lodgings, but instead of meeting with any success, he only heard the following villainous proposal. *My dear sir,* (says his counterfeit friend) *you are at present low in the world, I am so unfortunate as to be in the same unhappy situation, therefore incapable of giving any relief; but if you will consent to the following means for redress, myself will attend you in the expedition. There is a gentleman of great rank and fortune, who sets out to-morrow morning by five o'clock for the country, who I am informed has money enough with him, and that in ready cash too, to supply both our necessities, and (as the old proverb says) faint heart never won fair lady; if you will supply yourself with a good horse and pistols, we will lay upon the watch. These words were like thunder bolts to mr. P*****'s ears, and he was in such a rage, that he vow'd he would go to a justice and discover what he knew; and upon saying this, made to the door. The other perceiving his scheme had not the wish'd-for success, ran and held the door till by much intreaty he persuded him to return and take his chair. After which the rascal resummed his former proposal, thinking the better to bring mr. P***** into it by representing the horrors of a goal, and the inconveniency of being without money, at the same time putting about the bottle of wine which stood on the table, very briskly.*

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Tho' mr. P*****'s mind was struck with such horror at first, yet now this proposal began to be more familiar to him, and being unhappily a little in liquor with the wine he had drank, he was unfortunately seduced by the viles of his friend, and consented to accompany him. They agreed to set up till three in the morning, at which time they were to sally forth. As soon as that hour was arriv'd, they mounted their horses, which were order'd to be in readiness, and made toward the *Western Road*, to wait (on a famous heath for robberies) till his lordship come by. About half an hour after five, his lordship came by with three servants, arm'd, which our heroes perceiving, advanced, but mr. P***** was so terrified with the thoughts of what he was going to do, began to make off; which the other perceiving, bid him *stand his ground, or he would immediately blow his brains out.*

Upon this he made up to one side of the chaise and his companion to the other, and demanded his lordship's money, which whilst his lordship was getting for them, the servants knock'd each of them off their horses, and by the assistance of the driver of the chaise, secured them both, and carried them before a magistrate who committed them both to prison; but they were acquitted at the ensuing sessions, as who

will be seen in the following surprizing manner :

When mr. P******n* found himself in this deplorable situation shame and horror almost drove him distracted ; how often did he curse the day that ever he came to *London*.

The day after his commitment he wrote to one mr. B—*rd* a gentleman of his particular acquaintance (to whom his guardian recommended him at his first coming to town) telling him the circumstances he was under, and desir'd he would immediately repair to his gloomy lodgings, where he should hear of all the particulars of the misfortune that had befel him.

His friend went to him soon after he had receiv'd the Letter, and with the greatest truth mr. P******n* told him every circumstance. With what concern did his friend receive this relation ! How was he shock'd to see a young gentleman whom he had so great a value for, confin'd within the gloomy walls of a prison, and that with too much reason. He had too much tenderness and good nature to upbraid him for his folly, for that he knew would only make his situation more terrible ; all he could do as a friend, was to comfort him under his misfortunes, with the hopes that he would be extricated

cated from his *Dilemma*. With these pleasing hopes he had some reason to flatter himself, as he was very well acquainted with the Judge, and several of the Council who were to preside at the trial. But he imagin'd the most judicious step would be, first to wait upon the nobleman who had been robb'd. Accordingly when my Lord return'd to *London*, which was about a Fortnight after, mr. B**rd waited on him and without any difficulty, gain'd access to his lordship's presence, where being seated, he related to him the affair he came upon in this manner: *I am inform'd, my Lord, that there are two persons now under confinement for attempting to rob your lordship some time since, with one of whom I am intimately acquainted. Upon this therefore, and the universal good and noble character your lordship bears, I have thus made bold to apply to your lordship for mediation for my friend. He is the son of a gentleman of good family, whose father died when he was an infant, left him under the care of a gentleman in Devonshire, of strict probity and justice.* Here mr. B**rd related to him the manner of his education till his coming to town; how he had spent his time till he was drawn into this misfortune: he told his lordship likewise the fortune he was heir to, as well as his name, with many other things, that might incline his lordship to mercy.

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His Lordship was struck at this resital, immediately recollecting this unfottunate young gentleman could be no other than the son of his once dear friend mr. P****n in *Devonshire*.

This however he did not discover to mr. B**rd, but only told him how sorry he was for the young man's misfortunes, and that he would use all his interest to get him acquitted ; adding several other kind expressions, which plainly discover that he was really inclin'd he should be saved.

After mr. B**rd had met with so kind and favourable reception from my Lord, he took coach and went immediately to acquaint the unfortunate prisoner with the success, and till the trial he went constantly every day to visit him, and saw that he was indulg'd in every thing the nature of the place would allow. He likewise wrote to his guardian, who immediately came to town, and was present at the trial. By the interest of his lordship and these two gentlemen, the prisoners were both acquitted ; which all who were acquainted with the story greatly rejoic'd at ; for what tender or christian breast can be so obdurate, as not to be affected with this relation ? none certainly. And farther let any one consider any of their nearest relations or
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most particular friends in the same unhappy situation, and how far tenderness and charity will influence them towards any other (tho' not related) will be evident.

The reader will undoubtedly wonder why I have said nothing about mr. P****n's companion in the robbery; but every one must know that favour could not be shewn to one more than the other, and therefore both must come off alike; but had not this villain been engaged with mr. P****n he would now have been condemn'd for the fact, for this was the second time he had been upon trial of life and death, for a fact of singular nature: perhaps it may be agreeable to tell the means how the villain came to escape the gallows the first time.

Before he went on the highway, he got acquainted with an *Irishman*, who was as great a rogue as himself; to him he told his intention of turning highwayman, and in case he would consent to his proposal he should have half the booty. The *Irishman* promised he would come into the scheme let it be how it would; the other then told him, that provided he should be ever apprehended, the *Irishman* should swear that they two were together at *Dublin*, the day before the robbery was committed. To this
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the *Irishman* very readily agreed, which was sealed between them with bottle and glass, and our young hero was to make his first adventure the next day. Accordingly having provided the proper accoutrements with a good horse, he sets forth; and the first prize he met with was a single gentleman on horse-back. Having therefore put on his mask, he rode up to him, and with the usual salutations on such an occasion, demanded his money, at the same time clapping a pistol to his head. In this situation 'twould have been a folly for the gentleman to have made any resistance; therefore he deliver'd him all the money he had about him, which was 5 *l.* and upwards and his watch, which the rogue having receiv'd, made off in search of more prey.

He had not rode above two miles farther before he had discover'd a post-chaise with a gentleman and lady in it; at this sight he spu'd his horse, which soon brought him up to the chaise, and then order'd the driver to stop, acquainted the gentleman and lady with his business and desir'd they would keep nothing from him of any value, as rings, &c. for he must have every thing of that kind. It would have been in vain for the gentleman and lady to make any resistance, they therefore gave him their money, which between them was about

16 l. odd, together with their two watches and two rings the lady had on her fingers, all which together was no small booty ; and then wishing them in a very genteel manner a good day, he rode off to an alehouse about four miles farther to refresh himself and horse.

As soon as the last people that had been robb'd arriv'd at the next town, they dispatch'd immediately several very resolute fellows in search of the villain, but none of them had the good luck to find, or even to gain the least intelligence of him, and were oblig'd to return home as they went out.

After the highwayman had refreshed himself at the alehouse above-mention'd, upon coming away he was seized with a violent pain in his bowels, which being accompanied with other disorders, kept him at this place above a fortnight, where he could have no other relief but what the woman of the house afforded him. However in about a fortnight he was pretty well recover'd, and thought himself now fit for fresh adventures. Accordingly one morning he order'd his horse to the door, and while my gentleman was drinking a glass of rum within doors, who should come by but the same gentleman and lady he had last robb'd, and in the

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same post-chaise. The gentleman presently saw the horse and knew him, as did likewise the lady; therefore ordering the chaise to stop he alighted and went into the house, and ask'd for the owner of the horse at the door. The landlady, somewhat surpriz'd, told him he belong'd to a gentleman who had been taken ill upon the road about a fortnight ago, and had been at her house ever since; but now thinking himself perfectly recover'd, was going to proceed on his journey, and was only drinking a glass of rum in the next room. The gentleman desir'd to see him, saying, *He would swear he had been robb'd by a person on that horse a fortnight ago, about four miles off.* While he was speaking the fellow come out, but was immediately collar'd by the gentleman, who told him *He had been robb'd about a fortnight ago, on such a day, and in such a place, and that he believ'd by the horse at the door, he must be the man, and till after proper examination he must be in custody.*

The villain pretended intire ignorance of the charge, and with great calmness desir'd he would not affront an innocent person in such a manner, but as his honour and life were both at stake he would willingly (to clear himself) go before any magistrate. Having therefore provided proper guards to hinder any escape in case he should attempt

attempt it (which however did not happen) they carried him before a neighbouring justice, who, upon the deposition of the gentleman and lady committed him to goal.

The rogue had little to say in defence of himself, and only told the justice he was intirely free and innocent of the fact, that at the time of the robbery, or a day or two before, he was with a friend at *Dublin*, who would come to *England* upon such an affair, and depose upon oath what he said was true.

The affizes happening about three weeks after, our hero was forc'd to be contented with his confinement till then, during which time he had taken proper methods of acquainting his comrade of his being taken.

The *Irishman* appeared at his trial, and there deposed upon oath before the judge and whole bench of council that the prisoner was with him at his lodgings in *Dublin* the day before the robbery was said to be committed: further adding, that he was a known man of honour, and exemplary character.

Now when the villain committed the robbery, as I observ'd before, he was mask'd, for which

reason the prosecutor could not swear to his face; the prisoner was therefore acquitted, and immediately releas'd upon paying the fines.

But see the ingratitude of this wretch! going with the *Irishman* who had sav'd his life to dine at an inn in the town where the assizes were held, the *Irishman* reminded him of the agreement, which the other told him he would satisfy him in when they came into a room; but when they were in one, the *Irishman* spoke of it again; upon which the other fell into a great passion, and told him he would give him nothing; upon which poor *Teague* told him, *Damn you, did I not save your life an hour ago?* The other replied *Yes, and for that reason I will drub you severely, for saving so great a rogue from the gallows!*

He was as good as his word, and after he had beat him unmercifully, went from the inn and got out of town; and since it has been confirmed that he was kill'd by a fall from his horse, about three weeks after. Happy he met with no worse a fate!

But to return to mr. P****n, whose history I shall now conclude; and I hope the reader will excuse my making a digression from his story.
When

When he had so narrowly escaped from this unhappy affair, and was freed from his confinement, he retired into the country with his guardian; and now reason began to resume her right, and mr. P****n was resolv'd never more to live in *London*, for experience had shewn him it was impossible to live there without being drawn into temptations. As he was possess'd of many eminent and noble qualifications before his misfortunes, so he summoned up all his resolution to endeavour if possible, to efface the blemishes his character and honour had undoubtedly been stain'd with. He so far kept good his resolutions, that the story dropt by degrees; and by persevering in this manner in a short time 'twas quite forgot, and he was looked upon by all his acquaintance and relations, 'as though such a thing had never happened; for as they knew how unwarily he had been seduced, they respected him so much as he was before coming to town.

But what will most surprize, and at the same time rejoice the tender reader, is this.

As I observ'd before, the nobleman (who had been robb'd) being touch'd with his youth and his misfortune, (proved so favourable as with the assistance of mr. B**rd and our young gentleman's

man's guardian to get him acquitted) hearing how sober and reform'd he had liv'd since, and that he had so greatly redeem'd his character, resolved to let him know how intimately he was acquainted with his father when alive, and the established friendship which was always between them. He therefore wrote to his guardian telling him he had heard of the great reformation of mr. P****n, and that in case they would do him the pleasure of spending some time with him in *London*, they should have no reason to repent of their journey.

The letter was received with great surprize by both, as they knew nothing who their great friend had been, nor the reason why he had been so favourable to mr. P****n.

But tho' mr. P****n had resolved never more to live in *London*, yet by coming there with his guardian, he thought would not in any shape break in upon his resolution; and besides the kind invitation from his lordship as well as gratitude demanded it. They therefore accepted the invitation, and acquainted his lordship they would do themselves the honour of waiting on him in town in a week.

They at that time set out accordingly, and
after

after a most pleasant journey arriv'd safe in *London* about seven in the evening, and immediately dispatch'd a messenger to his lordship to acquaint him with their arrival, and that they should be with him by twelve o'clock the next day.

As soon as his lordship had receiv'd this intelligence, joy sparkled in his eyes, and he immediately order'd his coach to go and fetch the two strangers to his house. The messenger return'd and told them of it, that they must be ready, for his lordship had order'd his coach to come directly for them, and it would be there presently.

This somewhat surpriz'd them still ; however the coach came for them in about an hour after, and brought them to his lordship's house, where they were met at the door and introduc'd by his lordship himself, for as soon as he heard the coach stop he ran out to receive them. They were conducted into a noble room, where was no one but my lady, and an only daughter of his lordship's, whose charms had caused the heart of many a one to ach ; and indeed mr. P****n was greatly captivated with her, and in this surprizing manner he fortunately became her husband, will be presently seen.

When

When they were seated, and the proper Salutations pass'd on both sides, my Lord spoke to them in this manner: *I must own I give you great reason to wonder at my sending for you to town, but as you have been so kind as to accept of the invitation, I shall endeavour to shew you how glad I am to see you, and make your stay in town as agreeable as possibly I can. This house is to be your home while you are in town, my servants, horses, and every thing else you have need of, are at your intire command, use them as your own.*

This extraordinary kindness and civility from a man of such distinction, somewhat raised their curiosity; which my lord observing, unreveal'd the secret, and told them, *That the friendship and regard which he had always bore for mr. P****n's father was the reason that he desired to cultivate an intimacy with the son. When mr. B***rd applied to me for favour in a late wanton affair, I was inclined to pity, but when I knew it was young P****n, the son of my once dear friend of that name, I no longer hesitated to promise I would do all in my power to serve him; but at that time I concealed from every body I knew any thing about you, and should still have kept it a secret, had I not heard that you had entirely redeem'd your character, and was now loved and respected by all. I was glad to hear such joyful news, and was*
determined

resolv'd to invite you to town to make myself known to you. These civilities were accompanied with many other protestations which plainly shew'd how much my Lord regarded the memory of his dear friend, by his extraordinary behaviour to his son, whom he now had as great a regard for, as if he had been his own.

In return for such extreme kindness, mr. P*****n and his guardian accepted of the invitation, and indeed they had every thing that could render their visit most agreeable. But as I observ'd before mr. P*****n was greatly struck with the charms of his lordship's daughter at first sight of her; but could entertain no thoughts of paying his addreses to her, as he knew not how the young lady might stand affected; for if he was disappointed in his offer and the thing had come to his lordship's ears, he might perhaps have looked upon it as an high affront done to his honour, for mr. P*****n to think of such a thing, and even to offer his addreses without having his lordship's consent.

These were mr. P*****n sentiments, he therefore entertained no thoughts of this at present; but many days had not escaped before he perceived something in the young lady extraordinary, which convinc'd him that she entertained

no less favourable opinion for him, than he for her.

This heightened the love he had for her more than ever, and in short the lady broke first in the following manner: *I should do myself (says she to Mr. P****n) the greatest injustice, did I longer conceal the passion I have for you; by repeated demonstrations of my love, I thought I should have given you sufficient encouragement to have paid your addresses to me, but as you have remained silent, I am afraid I have not the happiness to be belov'd by you in return; but if you think me worthy of yourself, no longer hesitate to tell me so, and I doubt not but my father and mother's consent will make us at one time happy in the marriage state.*

Mr. P****n was somewhat surpriz'd at this unexpected declaration; but without much hesitation he answer'd her thus, *Madam, no sooner did I perceive all those charms you are mistress of, but my heart became intirely yours; but knowing myself unworthy of your affection, I dared not discover my passion; respect likewise to my Lord your father, caused me to throw away all thoughts of ever being so happy as to be your husband; but since, madam, you have declared yourself first, I in return assure you that (provided*
our

our loves should be agreeable to your father and mother) I shall think myself the most happy person on earth, in becoming the spouse to a lady of your merit and distinction.

After this interview in private it was agreed upon, that they should venture to declare their passion to my Lord and Lady, and implore their sanction to their loves. This they took a convenient opportunity of doing, and found every thing answer their hopes and wishes, neither my Lord nor my Lady were surpriz'd at this declaration, for they could not but perceive the daily affection they had for each other.

When our young couple had gain'd the entire consent and approbation of all parties nothing now remained but to come to articles, my Lord settled upon his daughter during his life, 1000*l.* a year, as her portion, and that after the death of his lady and himself, his whole estate of near 4000*l.* a year should devolve to her and her Husband.

The day fix'd for the consumation of the marriage was now arriv'd, and our young couple were now inducted with the usual solemnities into the holy state. The day was crown'd with mirth and pleasure, and many people of rank and distinction were present at the celebration of the marriage.

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For two months after this marriage mr. P** continued in *London* at his lordship's request, after which time he set out for his estate in *Devonshire*, where he was received with the loudest acclamations of joy, every body was rejoic'd to see him return home with a bride.

For the first three days he kept open house to all his neighbours of what degree or kind soever; bells ringing, and bonfires, which plainly shew'd how much he was respected by every body.

To a most deserving lady mr. P****n became a most affectionate husband; and a year after his marriage providence sent them a son and heir, and may he ever continue his bounty to a pair so deserving of his blessings.

But as I have been silent for some time of his guardian, let it suffice just to tell you, that he continued in *London* only a fortnight after mr. P****n's marriage, and then retired into the country to his family in extasies of joy, at having been present at so joyful an occasion.

My Lord and Lady promised to spend six weeks with their son and daughter in the summer once a year, and in return they were to spend so many in town with them in the winter.

Let it be sufficient now to say, that the happy couple is a true patern of that love and affection due to the marriage state, and may providence grant them a sufficient number of years to enjoy it.

F I N I S.



